

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

**Moderator: Aimee Rosenow
September 23, 2014
11:00 a.m. ET**

Operator: Good morning. My name is (Tasha) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the Statewide Population Health conference call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speakers' remarks, there will be a question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key. Thank you.

Ms. Aimee Rosenow, you may begin your conference.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, (Tasha). Good morning, everyone. This is Aimee Rosenow, with KDHE's Office of Communications. Thank you so much for joining us for this month's Statewide Population Health call.

I just want to run through the agenda real quick, so you know all the topics that we're going to cover today. We'll first of all hear from Dr. Moser, our state health officer/secretary here at KDHE. Then, we'll hear from our state epidemiologist, Charlie Hunt, on a number of topics related to Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics. Next, we'll hear from our Bureau of Health Promotion, Ginger Park is here with us today to update you on some activities going in their program.

And we'll also hear from Center for Population Health. Teri Caudle is here. She has a couple of items also, that she'd like to share with you all today. Then, we'll have an update from our Preparedness Program followed by an update from the Communications Office.

So, I'd like to turn the call over now to Dr. Moser.

Robert Moser: Good morning. Thank you for joining us again this month. I wanted to give a broad overview of activities here at KDHE and some areas that may be advantageous to you.

As you know, we're currently kind of going through our budget preparation and submission as an agency and our next two-year budget has been submitted at Governor's Office. Basically, we're looking at level funding for the next two years for the most part. So, no major changes in that regard.

A lot of activities seem to be going on. I tell you I know we have our KanCare Advisory Council meeting on Thursday this week to be shared at that. But I unfortunately will be unable to attend. I will be in Wichita, the Health Summit on Breastfeeding presenting there and serving on a panel with other state agencies addressing the value of supporting breastfeeding.

And then also, this week, we have a KAMU, Kansas Association for Medically Underserved Annual Conference occurring there in Wichita, as well, and giving a breakfast presentation about some KDHE activities at that as well. And then next week, our Kansas Public Health Association Annual Conference starts, a pre-conference on the 29th, and other activities there on the 30th. And then October is here all of a sudden and there's a great deal of activities occurring in October.

The first portion of October, we'll actually be spending in a couple of days in Denver with the Health and Human Services, region seven and eight. The state health officers and a few folks will be gathering in Denver to talk about what's going on in our central portion of the United States around a number of activities and events. And then, end up in Southwest Kansas working with the

charity health systems in presenting some talks around Garden City, Dodge City and Ulysses on the integration of behavioral health and primary care, which kind of goes on our mission of working to implement more population health management through integration of the biopsychosocial approach to care.

So, I'm looking forward to those discussions to talk about opportunities and barriers and kind of what's working and what's not, and it has a lot to do with some of the development in our health homes, in our KanCare program, as we're also working to develop the health homes for chronic conditions going forward. And then, looking really forward to kind of the middle of that week, October 8th will be our Obesity Summit. This will be the third one that we will have held and this one will be in Manhattan, so I hope many of you are planning on attending. I know you'll hear a little bit more from Ginger on that later, but just wanted to be sure and give a little bit of applaud to that.

Besides all that travel and meeting and other activities this week, on tomorrow afternoon, KDH&E management staff will be getting together. We'll be looking at our strategic plan. Our strategic plan was constructed and we've been doing a variety of tasks at work based on that since July of 2011. So, this meeting will be kind of a review and revision of that, so you'll be probably hearing a little bit more about that going forward.

Also, looking at my calendar, and I see that over the lunch hour, I have an appointment to get my flu shot. I hope all of you are either already covered or scheduling your appointments and taking care of that. I know the flu shot season is definitely here and picking up. And I'm sure state epidemiologist Charlie Hunt will visit a little bit more about the influenza season.

But finally, what I wanted to really wrap up with is the congratulations to our Sedgwick County Health Department for their PHAB accreditation. The agency here at KDH&E, as a whole, we've been working toward accreditation, so we certainly appreciate the rigorous activity that's involved and working toward that, and what a great accomplishment. And congratulations to the Sedgwick County Health Department.

And with that, I'll turn it back over to Aimee.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you very much, Dr. Moser. And now, we'll hear quite a few updates from our state epidemiologist, Charlie Hunt.

Charlie Hunt: Thank you very much and good morning, everyone. The first topic I would like to cover is Enterovirus D68. I'm sure many of you have heard a lot about this from the media reports with the communications office.

But just to recap very briefly, Children's Mercy Hospital out of Kansas City had begun noticing an increase in severe respiratory illness among children back in mid-August. And so, they worked with CDC to do some additional testing. Their local testing had identified rhinovirus or enterovirus among many of the specimens that they have tested.

And so, they sent several of those down to CDC for genetic sequencing which subsequently identified Enterovirus D68, including four patients from Kansas that had tested positive. And then an (MMWR) report came out about this a couple of weeks ago. And even before that, there had been a lot of media attention that was being paid to it.

In addition to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, there were increases among children for respiratory illness noted in some other areas of the country, the MMWR article included Chicago was listed among those hospitals. And so, we have put some guidance out to help with the response in the questions that we've been getting about Enterovirus D68. Just very briefly, these enteroviruses are associated with various clinical symptoms including mild respiratory illness, febrile, rash illness, neurologic illness such as aseptic meningitis and encephalitis.

EvD68 has caused primarily respiratory illness, although the full spectrum disease and epidemiology remains unclear. There have been over the years several clusters, increases notably as EvD68, but again, the epidemiology is not completely clear. CDC has issued some infection prevention

recommendations. In the community setting this includes hand washing and disinfection of toys and door knobs with a bleach solution or an EPA-registered disinfectant.

In health care settings, CDC is recommending standard contact and droplet precautions including the use of gloves. There were some questions that came up after we issued our first guidance on health on the (KS-HAN) about the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers versus hand washing. Since that time, we've actually issued a second (KS-HAN) to clarify that. And again, that's based on CDC recommendation.

CDC had held a national teleconference called the Clinical Outreach and Communication Activities. And they had talked about this, as well. CDC is not recommending the hospitals modify their current hand hygiene protocol, which we understand many of those include alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

It should be noted that EvD68 is a non-enveloped virus and that the effectiveness of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer depends a lot on the alcohol concentration and the amount of time that the hands are exposed to the product. And so, in the second (KS-HAN) that we issued, we did mention the importance of hand washing still when feasible. And of course, we'll be happy to answer questions about that if health care facilities have them.

CDC is assisting the states with laboratory testing. Priority is being given to patients with severe illness or areas where there are clusters of a similar respiratory illness. And then, we have put together an internal protocol that we'll be using. We have gotten a lot of inquiries about testing and we will be working with health care facilities to identify the most appropriate specimens for testing and get those facilitated and sent to CDC.

Next, I'll talk a little bit about West Nile virus. This is typically the time of year that we see increases in West Nile virus activity. This year, the activity has not been as high as it was in the past couple of years. We have reported out nine total cases on our website.

We typically update our website on Tuesdays, and so we will be updating those numbers today. Also, we have identified our first positive mosquito from testing in Sedgwick County. So, that will be reflected on our website as well. And again, that will be updated on a weekly basis.

Dr. Moser mentioned influenza and the importance of influenza vaccination. We are getting ready to get out for our 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season. And so, once again, we have somewhere between, I think, 35 and 40 (ILINet) sites throughout the state that will be participating in our surveillance for this season. And we will be updating our website on a weekly basis, again, for that.

And just as a reminder, we are asking the sites that are in (ILINet) to submit specimens for influenza testing. We like to get one a week ideally but we realize that you know depending on the level of activity and the number of patients that are being seen with influenza-like illness that typically is not something that we test fully.

But we, once again, will be updating our website on that on a weekly basis. And then finally, just want to briefly mention Pertussis. There has been an ongoing outbreak in Pottawatomie County, and we had over 60 confirmed and 18 probable cases in Pottawatomie County. And once again, that is reflective on our website with the high case count.

And so, we've been working very closely with them to get information up to providers on prevention recommendations and control recommendations, vaccine recommendations, et cetera. And so, that's all I have, and I'll turn things back over to Aimee.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you very much, Charlie. And next, we have Ginger Park with our Bureau of Health Promotion.

Ginger Park: Thanks, Aimee. I want to tell you about a few education opportunities coming up. The first one is the evidence-based public health course. The Bureau of Health Promotion is now taking applications for this course. It's a

free two-day training that will be held in Topeka on November 18th and 19th. This course will enhance current understanding of principles of health assessment, improvement planning, and evaluation.

More information about the course and the application will be attached to the minutes of this call. If you have questions about the course, please contact Ericka Welsh. Her e-mail address is ewelsh@kdheks.gov and her phone number is 785-296-0842.

We also have two upcoming Chronic Disease Self Management Program leader training, one will be held in Olathe on October 20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th and another training will be held in Cimarron, November 17th through the 20th.

As a train leader, you'll be certified to facilitate CDSMP workshop and meet once a week for six weeks. Each workshop is facilitated by two trained leaders, at least one of whom is living with an ongoing chronic health condition. This is a great free opportunity to help others take control of a chronic condition and improve their quality of life and to provide a valuable educational program in your community.

Training is held from 9:00 to 4:00 on each day and registrants must attend in full to receive certification. Registrants may be eligible to be reimbursed for travel if they travel at least 20 miles to attend the training. The training application is available online at www.kdheks.gov/arthritis/kohp_leader.

And please submit your completed applications and questions to Ariel Capes. Her e-mail address is acapes@kdheks.gov and her phone number is 785-296-1627. And then, the last thing I want to mention, as Dr. Moser mentioned the Kansas Obesity Summit, this summit is put on by the governor's council on fitness. It will be held in Wednesday, October 8th in Manhattan.

Again, this is a free conference, but registration is required. National Public Health Planning and Transportation consultant Mark Fenton will be the keynote speaker. The summit will include information on conducting

walkability audit, environmental strategies to increase physical activity, increasing access to healthy foods and worksite wellness. For more information and to register, visit www.getactivekansas.org.

That's all we have, Aimee.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, Ginger. And next, we'll hear from Teri Caudle with the Center for Population Health.

Teri Caudle: Thank you, Aimee. I'd like to share results from the survey that we conducted to get feedback on this call. First, I want to say thank you for everyone who participated in this survey. We received 130 responses, and they came from 66 different counties. The largest group of participants was from the local public health departments, but there were also hospitals and clinics who responded.

For the most part, it appears that the audience is OK with the content, the length, the features of the call and most felt that the notification and reminders (are on time). We did learn that we need to do a better job in informing the audience about how to find monthly access codes, access to transcript, and contact the call organizer. And we've already added the link to the webpage for codes and transcript to e-mail notifications, and also notification reminders.

So, we hope that that will help. We did hear, loud and clear, that we need to improve on the audio. In response, we will make every effort to speak more slowly and have the speaker close to the microphone. We hope your ability to hear us will improve.

Finally, there are many assorted suggestions that we're taking into account and we'll be working on these to have them implemented. Thank you again for participating in the survey. I would also like to take a minute to talk about the Statewide Public Health Workforce Competency Assessment. The deadline for this assessment has been extended to this Friday, September 26th.

And this assessment is for everyone who works at the local health department. All administrators should have received two e-mails with the information that they need. And one was from Jane Shirley; the other one was from Dr. Moser.

This assessment is particularly important for those health departments who are seeking accreditations but also is similarly important for informing the Statewide Workforce Development Work Group. And this will impact to everyone for state accreditation. So, make sure your health department's workforce development needs are captured in the statewide results.

Each department, each health department that participates will receive a report with their result. And there are centers available. Administrators who achieve the highest participation rate will be able to receive an incentive. And also, everyone participating in this survey has the opportunity to enter and win a \$20 Visa gift card.

So, if you would like to know your local response percentage, that's possible. What you need to do is you can either e-mail Cristi Cain and her address is ccain@kdheks.gov or you can call her at 785-296-3641. I also have a couple of announcements for the State Office of Rural Health. And they are hosting the Navigating Rural Health Resources Webinar on Wednesday, October 1st at 11:00 A.M.

This message is on our KHRIS announcement. So, you may have received it. If not, you can go and look on the KHRIS system. But what it is about is learning more about funding opportunities, the rural assistance center, USDA rural development programs and national rural health day.

So, you need to register for the Webinar. And if you need to have more information on that, you can e-mail ruralhealth@kdheks.gov. That's ruralhealth@kdheks.gov. And the other announcement -- this other announcement also leaned out on the KHRIS system and is a grant funding announcement. It's a HRSA-15-039 funding opportunity announcement, and

eligibility criteria are for rural non-profit, rural public entity that represents the consortium of those new three health care providers.

The purpose and the goal is to improve outreach and service delivery to local and regional rural communities to expand delivery of health care services to new and enhanced services and to deliver health care services through a strong consortium. The amount awarded is 200,000 for three years and the deadline is November the 14th. And there will be a technical assistance Webinar about this Wednesday, September 24th from 12:00 to 1:30 P.M. to assist applicants in preparing for the applications.

So, I will give you -- and you can again, you can find us on the KHRIS system but I'll give you the calling number and the pass code. And the calling number is 888-282-9630. The pass code is 1632772. If you have any questions about that, you can also go to or contact for more information, ruralhealth@kdheks.gov. And that's all I got.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, Teri. Next, we'll hear from our Preparedness Program, and we have Jamie Hemler here with us.

Jamie Hemler: Thanks, Aimee. As Emily Farley has departed, we are looking to fill that position as an Operations Specialist. This position has been posted on the state employment website, and it is requisition number 178670. Again, that position is requisition number 178670.

The Preparedness Program Director position closed on September 12th. Applications will be reviewed and if we received enough viable applicants, interviews will be held mid-October. If we did not get enough viable applicants, we will re-post this position.

The program is working to release a state-level Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program funding report by the end of the month. This report was created as result of some questions we received from health departments that were curious what the state did with its share of the PHEP funding. The report is broken down by capability as well as categories like

personnel, travel, and equipment. We will compile the same information for the Hospital Preparedness Program later this fall.

Local health department risk assessments have been completed. Any health departments that scored low will receive a letter in the mail along with the assessment this week. We have two health departments in phase one and one health department in phase two this year. What phase two means is the health department will lose 50% of their funding for the year. If they continue to score low, they will be placed on phase three which means their preparedness contract will be cancelled.

With that said, we did have one health department that was in phase one last year and this year, they raised their score substantially and we're very proud of the effort they made last year. So, the process does seem to be working so far.

In terms of preparedness month, Fred the Preparedness Dog and Michael have been pretty busy making some visits. They're going to round out the month with visiting tomorrow at the KU Med Center, Saturday in El Dorado and on the 30th at K-State Ready Campus. And just a reminder, if you know of any community fair that is going on that you want Fred to appear at, you can visit www.fredthepreparednessdog.org for more information. And that's all I have.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, Jamie. And we just have a real quick announcement from the communications office. We just wanted to let you know that our healthcare-associated infections program submitted a proclamation to the governor's office to recognize International Infection Prevention Week, and that will take place October 19th through the 25th.

And I just wanted to make you aware of that observance because you might see some more communication come from us on that. The purpose of International Infection Prevention Week is to just raise awareness of the role of infection prevention and how that works to improve patient safety and promote the belief that everyone has a role in infection prevention.

So, look for more information from us on that. And I think that's it for all of our updates here in the room today, so we're available to answer any questions that you all might have.

(Tasha), can we open the lines for our question-and-answer session?

Operator: At this time, I would like to remind everyone, in order to ask a question, press this number one on your telephone keypad. We'll pause for just a moment to compile the Q&A roster.

Again, if you would like to ask a question, press star then the number one on your telephone keypad.

Your first question comes from the line of Brenda Clugston.

Aimee Rosenow: Hi, Brenda. How can we help you?

Brenda Clugston: I was wondering about the Public Health Workforce Competency Assessment. The e-mail said that it closed yesterday on 9/22. Do they still want us to do it or is it in fact over?

Teri Caudle: Yes. It was extended until this Friday, the 26th. So, you...

Brenda Clugston: OK. Thanks.

Teri Caudle: Yes. So, if you – we really would like you to complete that. It will be extremely helpful.

Brenda Clugston: OK.

Teri Caudle: Thank you for asking.

Operator: Again, if you would like to ask a question, press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. There are no further questions at this time.

Aimee Rosenow: Thank you, (Tasha). Again, I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for joining us this morning on the call. If you do have any questions at a later time on any of the topics that you've heard today, feel free to reach out to any one of us.

The transcript will be placed out on the website as well, so you can refer to those at any time. And I will make sure that that link is provided to you, as well. I just want to remind you all that our next Statewide Population Health Call will be October 28th, at 10:00 AM.

Again, thank you for joining us today, and we look forward to touching base with you again on next month's call.

Operator: This concludes today's conference. You may now disconnect.

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